

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A pallet container configured to enclose one or more liquid filled plastic containers, the pallet container including a connection assembly comprising a plurality of first elongate elements and a plurality of second elongate elements forming a grid structure connected to one another at an intersection the first element comprising a tube and defining at least one receiving opening through which the second element is passed, wherein the portion of the first element defining the periphery of the receiving opening protrudes inwards into the tube to define a collar surrounding the second element, to support the second element, to provide a pivot surface about which the second element can bend such that the second element is more likely to bend than to break, and to spread the dynamic forces between the first and second elements to prevent a knife edge contact between the first and second elements.

2. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first element defines two aligned receiving openings through which the second element is passed, the portions of the first element defining the peripheries of both of the receiving openings protruding inwards into the tube to define two collars surrounding the second element

3. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein an inner dimension of each collar is dimensioned with respect to an outer dimension of the second element so as to provide a frictional fit of the two elements.

4. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first element has been drilled to define the receiving opening the diameter of the drilled aperture being less than the diameter of the second elongate element.

5. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the drilled aperture was punched to deform the periphery of the aperture so that it is folded inwards

into the tube to form the collar and to increase the diameter of the aperture to that of the receiving opening.

6. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the first element is provided with at least one ridge, the apex of which lies close to or contacts the outer surface of the second element at a position.

7. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1 or 6, wherein the first and second elongate elements are connected to one another at one or more positions in the region of their intersection.

8. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 7 when dependent on Claim 6, wherein a connection position is formed where the outer surface of the second element lies opposed to the inner surface of the first element at the apex of the ridge.

9. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the first and second elongate elements are made of metal and are connected to one another at said one or more positions by welding.

10. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the first and second elongate elements are made of a plastics material and are connected at said one or more positions by ultrasonic welding, induction welding or melt bonding.

11. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first elongate element is tubular with a substantially circular, elliptical or ovoid cross-section.

12. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second elongate element is tubular with a substantially circular or oval cross-section.

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13. (Previously Presented) The assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the second element is smaller by between 20% to 30% than the diameter of the first element.

14. (Canceled)